

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 14, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson:

Concerningly, the House budget reconciliation bill includes drastic cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid.¹ These cuts threaten health coverage and food security for millions of families. Moreover, these cuts will have a devastating impact on nutrition programs in the Committee on Education and Workforce's jurisdiction, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer Program (S-EBT), and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

Eligibility changes to SNAP or Medicaid have wide-ranging impacts on the more than 21 million children who receive free and reduced-price meals, the estimated 21 million children that receive grocery benefits during the summer, and the roughly 6.6 million individuals who depend on critical nutrition and health care services through WIC.² First, eligibility for Medicaid or SNAP, as well as certain other programs, allows millions of low-income students to be certified for free and/or reduced price school meals without the need for their families to complete a school meals application. Eligibility changes that limit participation in SNAP or Medicaid would negatively

¹ Providing for Reconciliation Pursuant to H. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, 119th Cong. (2025) (Subtitle A), https://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/ag-recon-combo_03_xml.pdf; Providing for Reconciliation Pursuant to H. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, 119th Cong. (2025) (subtitle D), https://d1dth6e84htgma.cloudfront.net/Subtitle_D_Health_ae3638d840.pdf.

² While the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has yet to release Summer EBT participation data for 2024, the Department expected the program to serve nearly 21 million children that year; *Nearly 21 Million Children Expected to Receive New Grocery Benefit This Summer*, U.S. Dep't of Agric. (Jan. 10, 2024), <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2024/01/10/nearly-21-million-children-expected-receive-new-grocery-benefit-summer>; *National School Lunch Program: Participation And Lunches Served*, U.S. Dep't of Agric. (Apr. 11, 2025), <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/slsummar-4.pdf>; *WIC Program*, U.S. Dep't of Agric. Econ. Rsch. Serv. (Jan. 8, 2025), <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/wic-program#:~:text=The%20WIC%20program%20served%20about%206.6%20million%20participants.of%20all%20infants%20born%20in%20the%20United%20States.>

impact children's ability to seamlessly participate in these programs.³ Last school year, nearly seven million kids were directly certified for free meals, including because of a household's participation in SNAP or Medicaid.⁴

Second, cuts to Medicaid and SNAP will have a direct impact on the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows nearly 50,000 schools to serve free meals to all kids with less administrative paperwork.⁵ CEP is a program that not only provides children with access to nutritious school meals but reduces stigma and streamlines burdensome paperwork for both school staff and families. If fewer students are directly certified through SNAP or Medicaid, fewer schools will be able to use CEP, leading to students at these schools losing their automatic access to free meals. CEP would also be less financially viable for schools that remain eligible to participate since federal reimbursements are based on the number of students certified through programs such as SNAP.

The budget reconciliation bill could also lead to increased grocery bills for families as cuts to SNAP and Medicaid will reduce participation in the Summer EBT program, which ensures that roughly 21 million children do not go hungry during the summer months.⁶ Finally, these cuts will also limit access to nutritious food and health care for pregnant women, infants, and young children as most states use Medicaid participation for WIC enrollment.⁷

Unfortunately, to date, these abovementioned impacts have not been publicly contemplated or discussed. Due to this known interaction between SNAP and Medicaid eligibility and nutrition programs, we request the following information about the bill be made publicly available prior to its consideration on the Floor.

1. Data and analysis regarding:
 - a. the number of children that would lose access to free or reduced-price school meals;
 - b. the number of children and families that would lose access to WIC; and
 - c. the number of children and families that would lose access to Summer EBT.
2. Any information provided to you by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), or federal budget experts that provide information to Congress on SNAP, Medicaid, and child nutrition programs.

³ Clarissa Hayes, *Budget Reconciliation Update: Cuts to SNAP are Cuts to School Meals*, Food Rsch. & Action Ctr. (May 4, 2025), <https://frac.org/blog/budget-reconciliation-update-cuts-to-snap-are-cuts-to-school-meals>.

⁴ *Eligibility for Community Eligibility Provision*, Food Rsch. & Action Ctr., <https://frac.org/community-eligibility-database/>.

⁵ Betsy Kerrigan, *Community Eligibility*, Food Rsch & Action Ctr. (Apr. 30, 2025), <https://frac.org/community-eligibility>.

⁶ *2025 Budget Stakes: Millions Could Lose Needed Food Assistance*, Ctr. on Budget and Policy Priorities (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/2025-budget-stakes-millions-could-lose-needed-food-assistance>.

⁷ Zoë Neuberger, *WIC State Agencies Continue to Use Federal Flexibility to Streamline Enrollment*, Ctr. on Budget and Policy Priorities (Dec. 19, 2024), https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/3-31-22fa_rev10-4-24.pdf.

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Child nutrition programs have been instrumental in overall health and school readiness for over 75 years.⁸ Children and families across the country, and the elected officials who represent them, deserve the utmost transparency as the reconciliation process moves forward. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
Education and Workforce
Committee



Brendan F. Boyle
Ranking Member
Budget Committee

⁸ *Child Nutrition Programs*, U.S. Dep't of Agric. Econ. Rsch. Serv. (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/child-nutrition-programs>.